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RELEASED IN PART
B1, 1.4(B), 1.4(D)

INFO	LOG-00	CIAE-00	SMEC-00	OASY-00	DODE-00	DOEE-00	EUR-01
	H-01	TEDE-00	INR-00	LAB-01	L-01	ADS-00	M-00
	NEA-01	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	OMB-01	PA-01	PM-00	PRS-01
	P-01	SCT-03	SNP-00	SP-00	SS-00	TRSE-00	T-00
	USIE-00	PMB-00	DRL-09	G-01	/023W		
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R 170811Z JUN 94
FM AMEMBASSY TUNIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6443
INFO AMEMBASSY ASMARA
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
OAU COLLECTIVE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 03 TUNIS 004094

PARIS FOR PERLOW/ALLEGRONE
LONDON FOR MCKINLEY/JOHNSON

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: PREL, OAU, TS
SUBJECT: A/S MOOSE MEETING WITH TUNISIAN FOREIGN
MINISTER BEN YAHIA: RWANDA TOP CONCERN

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1. CONFIDENTIAL - ENTIRE TEXT.

2. SUMMARY. A/S MOOSE HAD A PRODUCTIVE DISCUSSION
ON AFRICAN ISSUES WITH TUNISIAN FOREIGN MINISTER BEN
YAHIA ON JUNE 14, BEFORE THE SECOND SESSION OF THE
OAU SUMMIT. BEN YAHIA OBSERVED THAT RWANDA HEADED
THE LIST OF OAU PRIORITIES AND TUNISIA WOULD PROBABLY
INCREASE ITS TROOP CONTINGENT THERE. ON BURUNDI, BEN
YAHIA SAID THE OAU HAD REACHED AN AGREEMENT TO EXTEND
ITS OBSERVER MISSION FOR THREE MONTHS, INCLUDING

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: ARCHIE M BOLSTER
CLASSIFICATION: CONFIDENTIAL REASON: 1.4(B), 1.4(D)
DECLASSIFY AFTER: 17 JUN 2016
DATE/CASE ID: 06 MAY 2011 201005065

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TUNISIAN TROOPS. ON LIBERIA, AT MOOSE'S REQUEST,
TUNISIA WILL TRY TO BE HELPFUL.

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MOOSE RAISED THE IDEA OF AN OAU TRUST FUND
FOR CONFLICT RESOLUTION AND SAID THE U.S. WOULD
TRANSFER \$1.5 MILLION FOR THAT PURPOSE. BEN YAHIA
INFORMED MOOSE THAT PRESIDENT BEN ALI WISHES TO
ADDRESS THE UPCOMING UNGA IN HIS CAPACITY AS OAU
CHAIRMAN AND WOULD APPRECIATE AN OPPORTUNITY TO MEET
WITH PRESIDENT CLINTON. MOOSE AND BEN YAHIA AGREED
TO STAY IN CLOSE TOUCH OVER THE NEXT YEAR. SEE
ACTION REQUEST PARA 18. END SUMMARY.

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3. ON JUNE 14, ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE FOR
AFRICAN AFFAIRS GEORGE MOOSE MET TUNISIAN MINISTER OF
FOREIGN AFFAIRS HABIB BEN YAHIA SHORTLY BEFORE THE
OAU SUMMIT SECOND SESSION FOR A HALF-HOUR DISCUSSION
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OF CURRENT AFRICAN ISSUES. AMBASSADOR ALSO
PARTICIPATED. POLOFF AND MFA U.S. DESK OFFICER
AZZOUZ WERE NOTETAKERS.

RWANDA LEADS THE AGENDA

4. THE TUNISIAN FOREIGN MINISTER EXPRESSED HIS
APPRECIATION FOR U.S. INTEREST IN AFRICA AS A WHOLE
AND AMERICA'S WILLINGNESS AND ABILITY TO ASSIST IN
REGIONAL TROUBLE SPOTS. SPEAKING AS THE OAU HOST
FOREIGN MINISTER, BEN YAHIA SAID HE COUNTS ON
CONTINUED U.S. SUPPORT, ESPECIALLY IN THE RWANDA
SITUATION. A/S MOOSE RESPONDED THAT HE WAS DISTURBED
BY NEW REPORTS OF TENSIONS IN BURUNDI, FROM WHERE THE
U.N. PLANS TO DEPLOY TROOPS TO PROVIDE HUMANITARIAN
ASSISTANCE IN RWANDA. A/S MOOSE SAID THAT BURUNDI
SEEMS WILLING TO ALLOW U.N. TROOPS TO USE ITS
TERRITORY FOR THAT PURPOSE, PROVIDED UGANDA AND OTHER
NEIGHBORING STATES DO THE SAME. IT IS ESSENTIAL, HE
SAID, THAT HELP BE SENT TO RWANDA QUICKLY.

5. BEN YAHIA POINTED OUT THAT HE HAD RECENTLY

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APPEALED TO U.N. SECGEN BOUTROS GHALI FOR ADDITIONAL TROOPS FOR RWANDA. TUNISIA, HE SAID, WILL PROBABLY INCREASE ITS TROOP CONTINGENT IN THE U.N. FORCE, BUT THE QUESTION OF ARREARAGES FOR PAST PEACEKEEPING MISSIONS COMPLICATES MATTERS. A/S MOOSE NOTED THAT PRESIDENT CLINTON HAS ASKED CONGRESS FOR SUPPLEMENTAL FUNDS TO SUPPORT PEACEKEEPING. AMBASSADOR RECALLED

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THAT THE ARREARAGES ISSUE CAME UP DURING THE RECENT CODEL SIMON VISIT, AND SENATOR SIMON HAD PROMISED TO HELP.

6. ACCORDING TO BEN YAHIA, THE OAU IS ATTEMPTING TO SPUR TALKS IN RWANDA, BUT THE RWANDA PATRIOTIC FRONT (RPF) HAS STEADFASTLY REFUSED. THE AFRICAN STATES, HE ASSERTED, PREFER A NEGOTIATED OUTCOME TO IMPOSING A SOLUTION THROUGH THE U.N. "BLUE HELMETS." BEN YAHIA STATED HIS BELIEF THAT A BASIS OF DISCUSSION EXISTS, BUT THE RWANDA GOVERNMENT DELEGATION INSISTS ON MAKING AN ISSUE OF UGANDA'S ROLE IN THE CONFLICT-EVEN TO THE POINT OF PRESSING FOR AN OAU CONDEMNATION. A/S MOOSE COMMENTED THAT PRESIDENT MUSEVENI UNDERSTANDS THE DELICACY OF THE SITUATION, AND THAT PRESSURE MUST BE EXERTED ON THE RPF, WHICH WILL NOT ACCEPT A CEASEFIRE UNTIL THE U.N. CAN DEMONSTRATE ITS ABILITY TO PROTECT THEIR PEOPLE IN THE SOUTH.

7. BEN YAHIA ASSERTED THAT BELGIUM, THE FORMER

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COLONIAL POWER, HAS SPECIAL RESPONSIBILITIES TOWARD
RWANDA. HE SAID HE HAS ALREADY APPROACHED THE
BELGIANS ON ASSISTANCE TO RWANDA AND, WHILE RECEIVING
NO PROMISES OF SENDING TROOPS, WAS ASSURED THAT
BRUSSELS WOULD SEND MONEY AND EQUIPMENT. OAU SECGEN
SALIM, HE SAID, HAD RECEIVED SIMILAR ASSURANCES.
HOWEVER, NOTHING HAS ARRIVED IN RWANDA YET.

OTHER ISSUES

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9. BURUNDI: BEN YAHIA SAID THAT AN AGREEMENT HAS BEEN REACHED TO EXTEND THE OBSERVER MISSION IN BURUNDI, WHICH CONTAINS TUNISIAN TROOPS, FOR ANOTHER THREE MONTHS. THE MINISTER COMMENTED THAT AN INCREASE IN TROOP STRENGTH HAD BEEN CONSIDERED, BUT REJECTED BECAUSE OF THE STRAIN IT WOULD IMPOSE ON THE OAU BUDGET. HE ESTIMATED THE COST OF THE CURRENT MISSION TO BE IN THE RANGE OF USD 750,000 FOR THREE MONTHS. BEN YAHIA COMPLAINED ABOUT THE OBSERVERS' OUTDATED AND WORN EQUIPMENT, AND THE FAILURE OF THE BURUNDI GOVERNMENT TO ISSUE A DETAILED MANDATE FOR THE MISSION. "BURUNDI IS A TIME BOMB," HE SAID, "AND WE ARE TRYING TO FIND A QUICK REMEDY."

10. LIBERIA: A/S MOOSE CITED INTERNAL DIVISIONS AS A PRINCIPAL CAUSE OF THE PROBLEMS CONFRONTING LIBERIA. WE HAVE NOW REACHED A DECISIVE POINT IN THE NEGOTIATIONS WHICH WILL DETERMINE SUCCESS OR FAILURE,
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HE SAID. THE DISRUPTIVE ARMS FLOW, PARTICULARLY FROM NIGERIA, MUST BE STANCHED IF THE NEGOTIATIONS ARE TO BRING RESULTS. MOOSE CALLED ON TUNISIA TO USE ITS INFLUENCE IN THE OAU TO SUPPORT THE NEGOTIATIONS AND HELP OBTAIN FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR LIBERIA. BEN YAHIA AGREED TO CONSIDER WAYS TUNISIA MIGHT BE HELPFUL.

11. ANGOLA/MOZAMBIQUE: THE TUNISIAN FOREIGN MINISTER CHARACTERIZED THE ANGOLAN SITUATION AS MORE HOPEFUL THAN AT LAST YEAR'S SUMMIT, BECAUSE THE CONFLICTING PARTIES MAY AT LAST REACH AGREEMENT TO BEGIN TALKING DURING THE SUMMIT. HE WAS ALSO UPBEAT ABOUT MOZAMBIQUE, ALTHOUGH HE WARNED THAT THE "ANGOLA SYNDROME" MUST BE BORNE IN MIND. BEN YAHIA ASSERTED THAT RENAMO RECEIVES CONSIDERABLE MONEY FROM ABROAD--ABOUT USD 18-20 MILLION--ACCORDING TO HIS SOURCES. A/S MOOSE NOTED THAT RENAMO NEEDS FUNDS TO PARTICIPATE IN ELECTIONS, BUT AGREED THAT SUCH A SUM SEEMS EXCESSIVE.

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13. WESTERN SAHARA: BEN YAHIA STRESSED THAT THE WESTERN SAHARA PROBLEM MUST BE CONTAINED. HE POINTED OUT THAT ALTHOUGH POLISARIO REPRESENTATIVES WERE ADMITTED TO THE OAU CONFERENCE HALL, THEY WERE NOT RECEIVED BY TUNISIAN OFFICIALS, OR WAS THEIR FLAG AMONG THE AFRICAN FLAGS IN THE HALL AND AROUND TUNIS.

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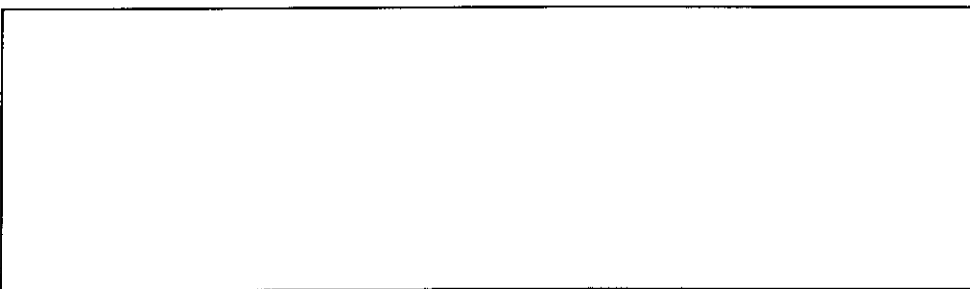
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14. SOMALIA/EGYPT/ETHIOPIA: BEN YAHIA SAID HE HAS
HEARD FROM BOTH THE KENYANS AND ERITREANS THAT THE
IGADD DISCUSSIONS IN NAIROBI ARE BOGGING DOWN. WHILE

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REFUSING TO SEAT ANY SOMALI FACTION AT THE SUMMIT,
THE MINISTER OFFERED TO ASSIST THE SOMALIS WITH THEIR
NEGOTIATIONS.

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15. FINANCIAL ISSUES: A/S MOOSE REGISTERED USG
SUPPORT FOR THE OAU'S CONFLICT RESOLUTION EFFORTS.
HE ADVISED BEN YAHIA THAT WE WILL SOON TRANSFER USD
1.5 MILLION FOR THAT PURPOSE AND AN ADDITIONAL USD 5
MILLION HAS BEEN REQUESTED FOR NEXT YEAR. MOOSE
RECOMMENDED THAT THE OAU PURSUE THE IDEA OF CREATING
A TRUST FUND OR ENDOWMENT FOR THE FUNDS. BEN YAHIA
AGREED THAT THE NOTION IS WORTH CONSIDERING. HE
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RAISED THE POSSIBILITY OF DONATIONS OF FOODSTUFFS
INSTEAD OF CURRENCY TO SUPPORT CONFLICT RESOLUTION
EFFORTS. A/S MOOSE BROUGHT UP THE CONFRONTATIONAL
AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK MEETING IN NAIROBI LAST
MAY.

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OR AFRICA WOULD RISK
THE FAILURE OF YET ANOTHER REGIONAL INSTITUTION. BEN
YAHIA NOTED THAT THE BANK ISSUE IS ON THE OAU AGENDA.

16. TUNISIA/UNITED STATES: BEN YAHIA WELCOMED THE
IDEA OF A WHITE HOUSE SEMINAR ON AFRICA AT THE END OF
JUNE AND ASKED IF TUNISIAN AMBASSADOR KHELIL IN
WASHINGTON MIGHT BE INVITED. THE FOREIGN MINISTER
REMINDED A/S MOOSE AND THE AMBASSADOR THAT HE HAD
SPOKEN TO SECRETARY CHRISTOPHER IN TUNIS LAST
DECEMBER, AND AGAIN MORE RECENTLY IN OSLO, ABOUT THE
POSSIBILITY OF PRESIDENT BEN ALI DELIVERING A SPEECH
AT THE UPCOMING UNGA IN HIS CAPACITY AS OAU
CHAIRMAN. IF BEN ALI WERE TO TRAVEL TO THE UNITED
STATES, THE MINISTER SAID, A MEETING WITH PRESIDENT
CLINTON WOULD BE REQUESTED.

17. AMBASSADOR SAID THE U.S. AND TUNISIA NEED A
MECHANISM FOR EXCHANGING INFORMATION ON OAU ISSUES
OVER THE NEXT YEAR. BEN YAHIA AND MOOSE AGREED. BEN

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YAHIA ALSO INVITED A/S MOOSE TO RETURN TO TUNISIA FOR
CONSULTATIONS DURING THE COURSE OF BEN ALI'S OAU
CHAIRMANSHIP.

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18. ACTION REQUEST: WE EXPECT TUNISIA TO WORK HARD
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AT DOING A GOOD JOB IN THE OAU CHAIR AND TO BE
RESPONSIVE TO U.S. VIEWS ON INDIVIDUAL ISSUES IF,
REPEAT, IF, WE PROVIDE A CLEAR RATIONALE ON A REGULAR
BASIS OF OUR POSITIONS AND OF THEIR EVOLUTION OVER
TIME. WE ENCOURAGE WASHINGTON TO THINK OF A REGULAR
SERIES OF CABLES, PERHAPS ON A MONTHLY BASIS, WHICH
WOULD ALLOW US TO MAINTAIN AN INFORMED DIALOGUE WITH
THE MFA AND TO INFLUENCE GOT ACTIONS AS OAU CHAIR.

19. MINIMIZE CONSIDERED.

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